IOM BANGLADESH: ROHINGYA HUMANITARIAN CRISIS RESPONSE

MONTHLY SITUATION REPORT



MAY 2021



IOM Bangladesh 2021 Appeal

For the over 800,000 Rohingya in Bangladesh, 2021 marks the fourth year since their mass displacement from Myanmar, preceded by decades of influxes spurned by systematic discrimination and targeted violence. IOM has launched an appeal for USD 140 million to support over 1.3 million Rohingya refugees and host community members residing in Cox's Bazar District in Bangladesh.

The humanitarian community swiftly shifted priorities in 2020 to respond to the impact of COVID-19 on the Rohingya residing in the 34 congested refugee camps in Cox's Bazar District. COVID-19 interventions were scaled up, and other humanitarian services adjusted, according to guidelines on access and presence to reduce the spread of infection.

While the Government Bangladesh and international community have maintained the provision of immediate lifesaving assistance, the needs are immense and complex challenges continue to emerge and reshape the nature of the response.

Read more about the appeal here.



Rohingya arrivals since 25 August 2017



Rohingya in Cox's Bazar



1.3 million People in need

Launch of Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre

IOM and the Rohingya community have jointly launched the Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre (RCMC), a multidisciplinary initiative which provides an online community space, interactive gallery, digital archive, and web-based exhibition, and one of the first significant attempts to comprehensively document and preserve the heritage of the Rohingya people.

In 2019, IOM researchers started collecting and documenting cultural practices and objects shared amongst the Rohingya community from Rakhine State in neighboring Myanmar. The centre tells the story of the Rohingya people through a comprehensive collection of cultural artefacts and artworks researched and produced by Rohingya refugee artists and artisans living in the camps. These efforts produced a thorough ethnographic map, detailing activities central to Rohingya identity.

By providing the Rohingya community with the tools and platform to tell their story, the RCMC addresses the "identity crisis" named by three-quarters of the refugees as a key factor in their loss of well-being. The RCMC strives to function as a vehicle that preserves and enhances their rich culture, contributing towards strengthening the collective identity of the Rohingya population.

The collection is a portrait of a culture reflecting on its past, present and future, exploring the tensions between tradition and innovation, imagination and memory, displacement and belonging. It combines objects of tangible and intangible heritage, ranging from traditional architectural models to embroidery, pottery, basketry, woodwork, visual arts, music, storytelling, poetry, and more.

The RCMC collection is only accessible online for the time being, but IOM is finalizing the construction of an integrated multi-service hall. The structure will include exhibition and workshop spaces and will be fully managed by the Rohingya community.

All the artisans and researchers involved in RCMC activities receive proper acknowledgment and authorship for their work. Additionally, the centre's artists-in-residence programme allows them to explore new processes and materials, innovating their crafts and creating new skills development opportunities. A dedicated Rohingya team is being trained to operate and manage the RCMC and its educational programmes.

Read more about the Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre here.









SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (SNFI)















In May, 111 individuals living in fire-affected host community areas in Camps 9 and 8E were identified for shelter support and eight community members received shelter training. A total of 91 shelters in Camp 9 and 25 shelters in Camp 8E underwent the second phase of shelter construction. Several refugee families moved into the completed shelters.

During the reporting period, nine national and international organizations signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with IOM to access the <u>Bamboo Treatment Facility (BTF)</u>. Treatment at the plant relies on boron — a natural substance which is filtered and recycled on site then reused to minimize environmental impact. Plant residue from the treatment process can be used as a fertilizer by nearby farms. The facility has a license recognizing it is operating within the country's environmental standards and approval to treat bamboo.

This May, at the BTF, 2,925 Nipa roofing sheets were produced for the Rohingya Cultural Memory Centre as Cash-for-Work (CfW) activities for refugees in Camp 24 and host community members in Nila.

The teams are engaging refugees living in Camp 20 Extension in CfW activities as an opportunity to support their families. During the reporting period, 243 bamboo baskets were produced under the supervision of a qualified trainer.

In May, 101 LPG kits comprised of cylinder, stove, regulator, hose, and accompanying training, were distributed to refugees across 13 camps. A total of 97,052 refills were conducted in 17 camps and nine unions. A total of 2,711 extremely vulnerable individuals (1,551 women; 1,160 men), such as elderly individuals, pregnant women, persons with disabilities, and COVID-19 suspected cases received essential door-to-door porter support. To date, a total of 33,150 individuals have received this type of assistance.

During the reporting period, 1,173 households received Transitional Shelter Assistance 2 (TSA-2) in-kind and through the voucher system directly from IOM and its Common Pipeline Partner. Out of these, 923 by IOM households in Camps 10, 20 Extension and 24 received the support directly from IOM. Another 250 households in Camps 15 and 16 received the materials from IOM's Common Pipeline Partner. Additionally, 87 extremely vulnerable families in Camps 10, 20 Extension and 24 received shelter construction and porter support.

As part of its cyclone preparedness efforts, IOM ensured the availability of emergency shelter kits in all the camps under IOM's Area of Responsibility (AoR). The stockpile has been completed for 30% in Ukhiya and 100% in Teknaf.

Under its regular emergency preparedness and response programme, IOM directly supported 133 households with emergency shelter support and 11 extremely vulnerable households with both emergency shelter and additional porter and construction support. Furthermore, IOM's Common Pipeline Partners distributed 61 emergency shelter kits to households affected by harsh weather and relocations across six camps.

A total of 14,933 man-days were paid under the Shelter Cash-Based Intervention, through CfW activities for the emergency response, and other types of construction, upgrades and maintenance works. Another 2,849 man-days were paid under the LPG programme, through CfW activities such as porter support for extremely vulnerable individuals.

MIGRATION HEALTH DIVISION (MHD)

As part of the ongoing response to the fire of March 22, IOM continues to operate one Mobile Medical Team (MMT) in Camp 8E and the temporary health post in Camp 9. Ten MMTs participated this month in a disaster response training to improve their coordination and communication skills for safe, rapid and effective emergency response.

Essential Primary Health Services

In May, IOM continued to address the essential health needs of Rohingya refugees and vulnerable host communities, by providing 68,640 consultations at 35 primary and secondary healthcare facilities. The services provided included outpatient and inpatient consultations, SRH services, 24-hour ambulances, MHPSS and Gender-based Violence (GBV) services, laboratory facilities, and child health services.

IOM supports basic and comprehensive emergency obstetric and newborn care services in the Health Complexes in Ukhiya and Teknaf as well as in other 27 health facilities across the camps. During the reporting month, 242 facility-based deliveries, and 3,749 antenatal care (ANC) and 794 postnatal care (PNC) consultations were conducted, while modern family planning methods were provided to 3,593 women.

On May 5, IOM celebrated the <u>International Day of the Midwife</u> and its 50 midwives, whose main role is to ensure provision of comprehensive SRH services in all IOM-supported health facilities. To celebrate the International Day of Menstrual Hygiene on May 28, IOM conducted several menstrual hygiene awareness sessions for women and girls at Health facilities and Women and Girls Safe Spaces as well as among host communities.

IOM continues to operate HIV testing and counseling services in six camps. During the reporting period, several people received counseling and testing services from those facilities, which also offer prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services.

The health packages at five IOM Primary Health Care Centres (PHCCs) in Ukhiya and Teknaf include integrated palliative care as part of the services provided. During the reporting period, 189 patients were consulted, 41 people with disabilities were referred to physiotherapy and rehabilitation services, 58 follow-up visits for cancer patients took place, five patients were referred to specialized care, and 137 people were reached through community outreach activities.

Communicable diseases and outbreak control remain a key component of essential primary healthcare services. IOM operates Oral Rehydration Points (ORPs) and inpatient isolation areas for Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) in its four PHCCs, which also conduct rapid diagnostic tests for malaria as part of its monitoring activities for vector-borne diseases.

Additionally, a mini Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) corner has been set up in 10 health facilities. In May, 1,595 AWD and 8,481 flu patients were treated in IOM facilities.

Infection Prevention and Control and Surveillance

Two IOM Severe Acute Respiratory Infection Isolation and Treatment Centres (SARI ITCs) and ten other health facilities are sample collection sites for suspected and confirmed Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs) cases. During the reporting period, 2,293 samples were collected from these facilities and transported to the laboratory in Cox's Bazar for analysis. A total of 73 contacts were quarantined, and 40 suspected cases and 93 confirmed COVID-19 cases were admitted to the two SARI ITCs.

During the reporting period, the Dispatch and Referral Unit (DRU) transported 464 people (suspected and confirmed cases, deceased and discharged). The three ambulance decontamination units are continuing their operations in Camps 20 Extension and 24. During the reporting period, 28 ambulances were cleaned and disinfected.



To ensure adequate IPC measures, the following Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) items were distributed to IOM-supported health facilities: 340 coveralls, 3,535 KN-95 masks, 72,350 gloves, 49,600 surgical masks, 1,560 face shields, 45 pairs of googles and 1,465 gowns.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

During the reporting month, IOM and the Department of Clinical Psychology from Dhaka University signed an agreement to conduct training on psychosocial skills development. An additional meeting was organized with representatives from the Humanitarian Assistance Programme (HAP) to discuss the project's beneficiaries.

In May, the team provided MHPSS services to 9,539 people. Several activities were conducted, including telecounseling for 31 individuals, community-based support through the RCMC for 4,377 individuals, and facility-based support for 239 individuals. In addition, IOM teams working in the SARI ITCs assisted 319 individuals with individual counseling focusing on the impact of the pandemic, psychosocial well-being and coping strategies.







184,581 door-to-door visits and 7,368 courtyard meetings were conducted by IOM's Risk Communication and Community Engagement teams



68,640 consultations
were provided in IOM-supported
health facilities, including outpatient
and inpatient care, SRH services, and
integrated palliative care

PROTECTION



General Protection

This month, the latest COVID-19 restrictions significantly curtailed IOM Protection's field presence and changed the work modality. This has been a particular challenge because Rohingya refugees who experienced harm were not able to easily access specialized services from IOM and other protection agencies.

Special arrangements with authorities in Camps 9, 10, 19, 20 and 20 Extension enabled IOM teams to continue essential protection services for vulnerable refugees, focusing on shelter and sub-block levels. The team succeeded in assisting 16 cases requiring protection information and individual protection assistance. Where permitted, IOM continued to provide case management services, small-scale outreach activities on Protection risks and threats and COVID-19 prevention measures, support activities in fire-affected Camp 9, and preparedness activities related to Cyclone Yaas.

Where access was restricted, the Protection team held a series of internal online workshops to bolster staff capacity on disaster preparedness and response, Counter-Trafficking (CT), Child Protection (CP), Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and General Protection (GP). The team also facilitated thematic online sessions for IOM staff and partners whose camp access was limited due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Counter-Trafficking

During the reporting period, IOM and its partners sensitized 5,228 Rohingya refugees on human trafficking issues and COVID-19. The outreach messages promoted personal hygiene, physical distancing and discouraged mass gatherings, while also highlighting possible risks of human trafficking during the pandemic. Additionally, 2,674 comic pocketbooks, leaflets, posters and masks that featured the CT hotline were distributed.

Child Protection

IOM and its partner Terre des Hommes (TdH) continued certain activities such as awareness-raising sessions, case management support and Psychosocial Support (PSS) for children and caregivers. A total of 3,592 people joined the awareness-raising sessions and 1,140 people participated in PSS activities. During the reporting month, 99 extremely vulnerable individuals in fire-affected Camp 9 were assessed for further assistance.

Gender-Based Violence

The COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions impacted case management services inside the camp and activities in the Women and Girls Safe Spaces (WGSS) that are part of IOM's regular GBV programming. In May, IOM provided individual PSS to 32 women and girls from Rohingya and host communities via its 11 Women and Girls Safe Spaces across nine camps and the Ratna Palong Union in Ukhiya.

Community mobilizers and volunteers continued conducting outreach activities on GBV prevention, in line with COVID-19 restrictions. During the reporting period, IOM reached 3,426 individuals through awareness-raising activities conducted in WGSS and at the community level. IOM's partner PULSE Bangladesh reached 1,951 individuals in camps and host communities with awareness-raising messages on COVID-19, hygiene, GBV core concepts and safe referrals.

In May, IOM and PULSE distributed 15 dignity kits including COVID-19 hygiene items to vulnerable women and girls, as well as 32 thamis (local clothing) and 114 masks. Furthermore, IOM provided the SARI ITC in Camp 20 Extension with 50 dignity kits and the SARI ITC in Camp 24 with 100 dignity kits.

During the reporting month, IOM conducted a Training of Trainers (ToT) on "Self-Care and Coping Skills in Stressful Situations" for 13 Rohingya women in Camp 19, who will in turn train the community on key Protection messages, healthy coping skills and COVID-19 prevention measures.









WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

A dedicated WASH team comprised of staff, volunteers and partner NGOs has been working tirelessly ever since the fire on March 22, installing emergency WASH facilities to meet the critical water, hygiene, and sanitation needs of those affected. In May, IOM distributed 7,633,000 liters of water to Camp 9 through water trucking.

During the reporting month, partner NGOs conducted water container cleaning campaigns using 0.4% chlorine solution and distributed 594,840 aquatabs in Camp 9, to respond to the increased number of AWD cases.

In preparation for Cyclone Yaas, IOM's WASH team advised all partner NGOs to conduct facility assessments and tie down facilities, particularly with corrugated galvanized iron sheets. Special attention has been given to these facilities to prevent casualties, damage, and disruption in critical WASH services.

Partner NGOs quickly tied down 414 latrine cubicles, 107 bathing cubicles, and 14 water tanks used for pipeline water supply, and installed sandbags on landslide prone slopes.. Wind and rain from Cyclone Yaas partially damaged 191 WASH facilities, which are currently being repaired and tied down to avoid future incidents. Partner NGOs have in the meantime completed the repair and maintenance work of 119 latrines, 38 bathing sheds, 1 tube well, 1 tap stand, 2 Solid Waste Separation Units (SSU), and 1 Fecal Sludge Management (FSM) unit.

During the reporting month, IOM built 16 bathing cubicles, 14 latrine cubicles, and installed three deep tube wells in Camp 20 Extension for refugees relocated from other camps in the newly developed valley.

In May, IOM distributed 8,608 full hygiene kits, each kit comprised of 8 bathing soap bars, 7 laundry soap bars, 2 pairs of child flip-flops and 2 pairs adult, 2 waste bins, 1 plastic *bodna* (water pot with a spout), and 1 baby potty, to the affected population in Camp 9. IOM's implementing partners distributed 3,459 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits to women and girls in Camps 11, 12, and 24.

IOM distributed 24,115 soap kits through its partners across eight camps. Each soap kit contains eight bars of bathing soap and seven bars of laundry soap, meant to last for a month for the average refugee family in the camps. Partner organizations distributed the soap kits door to door, while maintaining physical distance.

During the reporting month, IOM also provided 50 WASH kits to the quarantine facility in Camp 20 for contacts of COVID-19 patients. Additionally, the team provided 3,100 bathing soap bars to host communities. IOM WASH partners distributed 250 household-level handwashing devices to families in Camp 11. Each device includes a bucket with a tap, a plastic stand, and a plastic bowl for wastewater collection and disposal.

IOM's implementing partners continued disseminating messages on COVID-19 prevention measures, food safety, waste management, and hygienic practices. Partner organizations conducted a total of 105,735 household sessions, reaching 267,669 beneficiaries. Partners also conducted 6,991 awareness-raising sessions using megaphones, reaching an estimated 156,439 people.

During the reporting period, the teams distributed 440 kg of 65% HTH chlorine and 10 backpack sprayers to implementing partners to continue the disinfection of WASH facilities and key communal places within the camps. From March 2020 to May 2021, IOM provided 214 backpack sprayers and 6,853 kg of 65% HTH chlorine.











SITE MANAGEMENT AND SITE DEVELOPMENT (SMSD)

Site Management

IOM is part of the Rapid Investigation and Response Team (RIRT) set up by the Health Sector in each camp to follow up on the identification of COVID-19 patients and contact tracing as needed. During the reporting month, IOM Disaster Management Unit (DMU) volunteers supported the RIRT with contact tracing, while the SM focal point embedded in each RIRT followed up on those who opted to stay in home quarantine.

In May, continued the campaign "No Mask, No Entry" with all service providers to ensure COVID-19 prevention measures are respected by both staff and beneficiaries at service points. The team monitored the distribution points within the camps, and coordinated with other agencies to keep track of the planned distributions in order to avoid overlapping and to ensure that all agencies adhere to IPC measures during distributions.

Emergency Preparedness

After conducting a series of Cyclone Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) workshops last month, IOM is now planning several Simulation Exercises (SimEx). A SimEx briefing for focal points has already been conducted, including a refresher training on the use of VHF radios.

As part of its cyclone and monsoon preparedness activities, several meetings were conducted with Disaster Management Committees (DMC) to discuss the emergency preparedness and response plan. IOM distributed Personal Protective Gear (PPG), Search and Rescue kits, and First Aid kits to DMU volunteers. Orientation on how to use the kits was provided by the American Red Cross and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS).

IOM conducted an orientation session for DMU volunteers on monsoon and cyclone preparedness to support the dissemination of messages across the camps. DMU volunteers conducted awareness-raising sessions regarding the use of tie-down kits to strengthen shelters in case of natural hazards.

Site Development

IOM and its partner Shushilan jointly met with several Camp-in-Charges to discuss and agree on the necessary SD steps in preparation for the monsoon season. While the lockdown and restrictions limited the implementation of the works, SD was able to start the activities in certain areas.

In Camp 18, several partner agencies are conducting SD activities inside the camp. The Bangladesh Red Cross (BDRCs) is engaged in stairs construction, the German Red Cross (GRC) in drainage construction, while the Centre for Natural Resource Studies (CNRS) has completed the assigned works.

Site Maintenance and Engineering Project (SMEP)

SMEP is a joint venture of IOM, UNHCR and WFP mandated to maintain and improve all vehicular roads within the camps. In camp 18, SMEP is currently working on road access for tom-toms and other activities. In May, SMEP staff and volunteers continued hillside slope stabilization works using bamboo walls in fire-affected Camps 9 and 8E.

Communication with Communities (CwC)

During the reporting month, IOM published the report "MaBoinor Rosom" (MBR), which means "Mother's and Sister's Way" or "Mother's and Sister's Traditions" in Rohingya. The report and accompanying curriculum were developed as a series of workshops where Rohingya women and girls can learn more about issues that affect them, as well as share their thoughts, experiences and ideas.



Women's Participation Project

During the reporting period, IOM conducted 21 sessions on cyclone preparedness, fire safety, COVID-19 and basic hygiene for 217 women representatives in Camps 15 and 20 Extension. As a Quick Impact Project, IOM repaired one pathway used by both Rohingya and host communities.

To celebrate Eid, IOM supported the Women Committee in Camp 18 to organize several activities, including songs, dances and henna painting. Two women-led projects on cane webbing and hammock sewing were implemented by 40 committee members in Camp 15.

Eight consultation meetings were organized in Camps 9, 15, 19, 22 and 20 Extension for committee members. Additionally, IOM conducted a training on self-care and coping skills for 13 women in Camp 19.































TRANSITION AND RECOVERY DIVISION (TRD)









Disaster Risk Reduction

The renovation of 22 Multi-Purpose Community Structures (MPCS) used as cyclone shelters in Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas is ongoing, with 60% of the works completed so far. These designated places were ready to shelter people during the recent threat of Cyclone Yaas between 23 and 26 May. During the reporting period, regular monitoring visits to the MPCS were conducted by IOM field staff and engineers. After completing the renovation works, meetings with the cyclone shelter management committees will be organized to ensure the maintenance of the shelters.

During the reporting period, 67 small-scale structural disaster mitigation projects covering 20 MPCS have been assessed in Teknaf and a detailed budget for CfW activities has been drafted. A total of 181 individuals have been selected to participate in the activities, which will improve the resilience of vulnerable host communities and create income-generating opportunities.

In preparation for Cyclone Yaas, IOM facilitated coordination meetings in both Ukhiya and Teknaf for the Disaster Management Committees (DMCs). The objective of these meetings was to coordinate the response for the cyclone, including the activation of the Cyclone Shelter Management Committee and the deployment of 1,655 CPP volunteers in the event of a possible evacuation. As part of its regular programming, IOM facilitated 12 Union DMC meetings in Ramu, Ukhiya and Teknaf Upazilas.

To ensure that communities based on the Naf River benefit from economic support, 26 small-scale infrastructure interventions have been selected in Hnila and Sabrang Unions. IOM is planning to provide unconditional cash and equipment to over 4,000 fishermen households to improve their resilience to disaster.

Livelihoods

Under the SAFEPlus programme, IOM is working to improve the livelihood skills of host community members to help them generate economic opportunities. During the reporting period, implementing partner Prottyashi conducted an electrical wiring and electronics repair training for 15 individuals, a sewing training for 20 individuals, a plumbing training for 15 individuals, a bamboo crafting training for 20 individuals, a natural crafting for 15 individuals, and a food processing training for 20 individuals.

Additionally, during the reporting period, United Purpose conducted a food processing training for 198 individuals. A total of 50 women attended a 10-day training on handicrafts, while another 100 attended a training on tailoring.

In May, with the support of United Purpose, the Sub-Assistant of the Livestock Officer conducted a poultry farming training for 56 individuals. During the session, the participants learned about the ideal chicken size, weight, life cycle, egg selection, and care, among other topics. The partner also provided a training on sewing and tailoring for 20 participants and another training on mushroom production for 20 individuals, facilitated by the Upazila Agriculture Officer.

In addition to the livelihood skills development training, to improve their business management skills, 20 participants attended training sessions on market linkage, product marketing, cost minimization, and customer satisfaction. Another 81 individuals attended a training on Entrepreneurship Development, during which they learned to develop business plans, assess cost-benefits, analyze market demands, and create marketing and financial plans.



NEEDS POPULATION AND MONITORING (NPM)



IOM NPM continues to support the Site Management Sector with the Incident Reporting Mechanism. More information on incidents can be found in this dashboard. NPM facilitated two online refresher training courses for SM staff in all camps and supported SMSD to launch the Daily Incident Mechanism for 2021.

During the reporting period, NPM continued to collaborate with UNHCR on facility mapping and activity monitoring under the coordination of the SMSD Sector.

The unit supported Dhaka's Displacement Management Cluster to facilitate key informant interviews with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) actors, including government, NGOs and UN Agencies, in Cox's Bazar for the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief (MoDMR) project.

In May, NPM and the S-NFI Sector presented the findings for the Shelter Standard Assessment to shelter partners and other humanitarian actors.

NPM is in the planning phase of a host community assessment to be conducted in the coming month with Ground Truth Solutions.

During the reporting period, NPM's GIS unit conducted an analysis of tree and greenery coverage across the Rohingya camps, looking at data from February 2021 and detecting changes in tree coverage between 2019 and 2021. This analysis was shared with the Energy and Environment Technical Working Group to support regreening plans.

The ACAPS-NPM Analysis Hub published the report "Our Thoughts", along with the final audio recording on the methodology. The findings were presented to donors, the Inter Sector Coordination Group, and some of the Sectors, while additional Sector presentations are planned.

During the reporting period, the Hub published two additional reports, one being a short note on current events in Myanmar and the other an anticipatory analysis piece on the potential impact of the 19 May directives on lockdown in camps.

The Joint Multi Sector Needs Assessment (J-MSNA) preparation is ongoing, which NPM will support with qualitative and quantitative tool development, data collection, data analysis, and reporting.

Funding for IOM's response is provided by













































